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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Europe (Soviet-Occupied)

DATE DISTR. 11 May 1950

SUBJECT OB Situation of Soviet Ground Forces
According to Information Obtained
from 10 March to 10 April 1950

NO. OF PAGES 12

PLACE
ACQUIRED [REDACTED]NO. OF ENCLS. 1 (List)
(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF
INFO. [REDACTED]SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. Overall

a. Reports received from the Soviet-occupied European countries up to 10 April 1950 indicate no change in the strength of the Soviet Ground Force units during recent weeks.

No units were observed to have been withdrawn from, or have newly arrived in, the Soviet-occupied countries. In contrast to early 1949, only small contingents of recruits were reported to arrive for units of the occupation forces during the first months of 1950. Reports on the replacement by bachelor officers of officers with dependents continued to be received from the Soviet Zone of Germany.

b. The training of troops in February and early March 1950 was generally done at kasernes or in the surroundings of military posts. Only some small-scale, short field exercises, with Soviet aircraft also participating, were held. Large-scale winter maneuvers have not been conducted during the past six months. The first advance parties arrived in early March 1950 in the troop training areas, known from 1949 reports. Units are expected to start leaving their military posts in early April 1950 to continue their training activities at the troop training grounds.

c. Reports received from 10 March to 10 April 1950 confirmed and amplified knowledge on the OB situation of Soviet Ground Forces units in the Soviet Zone of Germany and Austria.

2. Germany

a. General

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Class. Changed To:	TS S (C)
Auth:	HR 70-2
Date:	9 June 78
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c. Strength and organization

(1) Although no evidence, such as deserters' reports or Soviet documents, is available to verify the annulment of the status of the Third and Fourth Gds Mecz Armies, the two armies will henceforth be considered as full-size units. The following data are indicative of an annulment of the armies' cadre status:

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[redacted] December 1949 strength of the Third Gds Mecz Army (Cadre) was estimated at 86 percent and that of the Fourth Gds Mecz Army (Cadre) at 90 percent of the strength of a correspondingly organized full-size mechanized army. [redacted]

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(b) The number of recruits to arrive in the Soviet Zone of Germany in 1949 was enough to replenish the two cadre armies up to the mentioned strengths, activate an AAA division with each of the two cadre armies and, in the entire zone, replace older troops due for demobilization.

(2) Some corrections regarding OB data of Soviet GNC and Headquarters units/following: (see Annex 1):
were made on the basis of the

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10th Gun Brig:

Identified under the 6th Arty Div in July 1944 and therefore could not have been confused with the 10th How Brig.

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118th Hv How Brig:

Identified under the 6th Arty Div in October 1944; vaguely identified in Rathenow in July 1946. An 18th How Brig was probably confused with the 118th Hv How Brig.

65th Light Arty (or Mort) Brig:

Identified in April 1945 under the 18th Arty Div which was apparently dissolved in Germany in late 1946. There are indications that the brigade may have been reequipped with mortars.

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25th RL Brig:

Possibly subordinate to the 5th RL Div in the area NW of Berlin in April 1945; perhaps directly assigned to the IV Arty Corps.

30th Gds Gun Brig:

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(3) Information on the organization of motorized rifle divisions indicates that an artillery brigade and a mortar regiment are no longer component units of such a division. The organization of the division artillery is assumed to be as follows:

Motorized rifle division: One how Arty Regt, one Gun Arty Regt, one AAA Bn and one RL Bn

Mechanized division: One how Arty Regt, one Mort Regt, one AAA Regt and one RL Bn

Tank division: One mixed AB/how Arty Regt, one Mort Regt, one AAA Regt and one RL Bn.

d. Personnel

(1) An assumption in the last monthly report that shipments of recruits may have started arriving in the Soviet Zone of Germany after mid-January 1950 did not prove true. During the period covered by the report only three shipments of about 150 recruits each were observed to arrive in Neustrelitz, Ludwigslust and Jueterbog. The fact that no west-bound military rail traffic was observed in Kuestrin between 20 December 1949 and 2 March 1950 also evidences that, during the winter of 1949/1950, the units in the Soviet Zone of Germany received only some small shipments of replacements rather than mass shipments of recruits as they did in the preceding year. It is not thought that incoming shipments of replacements essentially increased in March 1950, i.e. before the units moved to the troop training grounds, especially as there have been no reports indicating the assembly of rolling stock or the

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departure of east-bound empty trains.

It is assumed that, by absorbing the unusually heavy influx of recruits in 1949 (two large waves) and by apparently keeping low the rate of discharges during the Winter of 1949/1950, the units in the Soviet Zone of Germany have generally reached the intended strength (i.e. 70 to 80 percent of the wartime T/O strength). The replacements who arrived after December 1949 were presumably used only to fill some vacancies.

(2) Outgoing shipments of older troops due for demobilization were observed only in Mecklenburg

contrary to the previous monthly report which stated that such shipments left Thuringia and Saxony. It is still believed that troops due for discharge return to the Soviet Union aboard leave trains and trains also evacuating dependents.

(3) The replacement by bachelor officers of officers with dependents was still going on in February and early March 1950. The latter were mostly evacuated toward Insten-burg via Kuestrin. Officers from the Soviet Union are believed to arrive aboard leave and official trains rather than in mass shipments.

e. Training

(1) While the troops who returned from troop training grounds in the Fall of 1949 and the recruits who at the same time arrived from the Soviet Union were trained at the kasernes (close-order drill and weapons drill up to the end of January 1950, the activities were increasingly shifted to field training at the military post drill grounds and the surroundings of the kasernes in February and early March 1950, according to numerous reports from all parts of the Soviet Zone of Germany. The field exercises included column driving practices and long march exercises. Field exercises with tanks and artillery in cooperation with aircraft were held at Doeberitz and Rossau in February 1950.

(2) This shifting from individual training to training at unit level is considered a preparatory step for the transfer of the units to the troop training grounds. The units are expected soon to leave their military posts.

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The arrival at Letzling Heath of advance parties (motor vehicle numbers of the 19th Gds Recz Div and of a GORG (AAA?) artillery unit from the Schwerin area were observed with them in early March 1950), the hiring of German personnel for work at the Schweinrich troop training grounds (after mid-March 1950) and the speedy repair of motor vehicles and equipment in Potsdam (since February 1950) are considered indicative of the units' leaving for troop training grounds.

In contrast to the Spring of 1949, no assembly of major quantities of rolling stock has been observed. For this reason it is expected that, for the time being, only individual units will undergo training at the troop training grounds, possibly alternating there.

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g. MGB/LVD units

The following information on MGB/LVD troops in the Soviet Zone of Germany, partially confirming previous data, was received:

(1) The Aue MGB/LVD unit was reported on 20 January 1950 to have .

(2) The kaserne on Leninstrasse (formerly Planitzstrasse), Chemnitz, was observed to be still occupied by MGB/LVD troops amounting to about one battalion in January 1950(C).

(3) The former Luftkriegs Schule, Dresden-Teichdorf, and the Bucher Kaserne on Marienallee, Dresden, were reported to be occupied by MGB/LVD troops of about one battalion each during the first half of February 1950 (C).

(4) The former Oberschule (high school) on Tannerstrasse, Freiberg, was still occupied by an MGB/LVD unit of 300 to 350 men on 22 February 1950 (C).

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Another hitherto unknown MGB/LVD unit of unidentified strength was reported by [] to be stationed in Brand-Erbisdorf (N 51/K 96).

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(5) The kaserne of Planitzstrasse, Leipzig-Cohlis, was still occupied by the repeatedly reported MGB/LVD unit of about 800 men in mid-January 1950. []

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(6) An MGB/LVD unit of 100 to 200 men was observed in the Albrecht-der-Baer Kaserne, Stendal, on 8 and 22 January 1950 (F).

(7) An MGB/LVD unit of about 200 men, previously observed in Stolberg, left for an unidentified destination in February 1950, leaving behind only a small rear detail (F).

(8) An MGB/LVD unit of about company strength was quartered in the former Rother'sche Fabrik (factory), Eickau.

h. Transportation situation

(1) The beginning of milder weather led to an improvement of operating conditions and a steady decrease in the number of loaded trains awaiting dispatch, which, on 9 March 1950, reached a comparative low of 28. However, part of this improvement seems to be due to a change of recording procedures so that the actual number of such undispached trains must rather be fixed at about 50. There are still difficulties in providing the required tractive power due to a shortage of locomotives and coal.

(2) The coal stocks of the Soviet Zone Railroads have continued to dwindle and may, by now, have reached a minimum level compatible with smooth operations. On 9 March 1950, the total stocks available in the zone amounted to 71,897 tons, including 65,699 tons earmarked as emergency reserve and the remainder (6,198 tons) available to current operations. Since the average daily consumption of the Soviet Zone Railroads is about 20,000 tons, only a supply covering 3½ days' operations is on hand. This situation does not permit large-scale and continuous transportation operations unless stocks are replenished.

(3) The Bad Freienwalde - Angermuende railroad line is being reconstructed single-track and is scheduled for completion by 1 May 1950. The opening of this line will probably be a great relief to the overburdened Eberswalde - Angermuende section of the Berlin-Stettin trunk line.

(4) The following measures are being taken in connection with the intended improvement of traffic conditions in the Rostock - Larnemuende Port:

(a) Expansion of the **Bramow** railroad station on the Rostock - Larnemuende line;

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(b) Reconstruction of the track installations between **Bramow** and the Port of Rostock.

3. Austria

Information obtained up to the beginning of April 1950 yielded the following data supplementing the previously known OB situation of the Soviet forces in the Soviet Zone of Austria:

a. General

The competent units of the 13th Gds Mecz Div, the 95th Gds Mtz Rifle Div and the GNC AAA units of the Central Group of Forces (either 23rd AAA Div or ? No. AAA Regt) were identified in their billeting areas up to early March 1950 by continual information on military posts and the evaluation of motor vehicle numbers and Soviet documents. The units continued their training at or near their military posts during recent weeks and are soon to leave for troop training grounds.

Indications are that some component units of the 13th Gds Mecz Div may have held small-scale winter exercises at Camp Kaisersteinbruch in February 1950.

b. Details

(1) The Vienna 44th Gds Mecz Regt [] of the 13th Gds Mecz Div was confirmed up to 18 January 1950 by the evaluation of a Soviet document. 25X1C 25X1C

(2) The Vienna-Kagran 106th Gds Heavy Tank Regt [] (CO Col Chikin) of the 13th Gds Mecz Div was confirmed up to 26 February 1950 by several reports and the evaluation of Soviet documents.

(3) Tank units, probably one tank regiment, were confirmed in Bruck on the Leitha River in March 1950. The units are still believed to make up the (15th?) Tank Regt of the 13th Gds Mecz Div.

c. Start of maneuvers

Several observations made in the area of Bruck on the Leitha River in late March 1950, such as motor vehicles of GNC units of the Central Group of Forces, intensive military traffic in the town and toward Camp Kaisersteinbruch, empty rolling stock on the Vienna-Bruck railroad line, may be indicative of units' starting to move to troop training grounds.

4. Hungary-Rumania-Bulgaria

a. Soviet units and motor vehicles probably belonging to the 17th Gds Mecz Div, according to evaluation of motor vehicle numbers, were observed in Szombathely, Koermend and Győr, NW Hungary, during the first half of March 1950.

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It can therefore be assumed that the division may have still been in its previous billeting area in mid-March 1950.

b. Except for some small guard detachments in honor, no Soviet troops were reported to be stationed in the Budapest area and in NE Hungary in early March 1950.

c. There are no reports or indications that the Soviet troops observed in the Kecskemet area in January 1950 were withdrawn from that area. It is therefore assumed that these troops, probably component units of the 2d Gds Mecz Div previously stationed in the area of Craiova, Rumania, are still in the Kecskemet area.

This assumption is borne out by information on the Craiova-Carscal area where only small Soviet detachments were seen in late February and early March 1950. These detachments are believed to have been rear details of the 2d Gds Mecz Div.

d. Information from Constanta in late February 1950 only referred to some Soviet offices which are believed to have been high-level supply headquarters.

e. Newspapers and broadcasts of recent months reported Marshal/SU I.S. Konev to have been appointed CinC of Bulgarian Armed Forces. These rumors have not yet been corroborated in a credible form. Konev had been nominated as candidate in Constituency No. 677, according to the list of candidates for the elections to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR (12 March 1950). This is the first official indication that Konev, who has not been mentioned in Moscow since the Fall of 1949, may be active in Bulgaria. The law regulating the elections provided for 671 constituencies for the elections for the Soviet of the Union. The mentioned list of candidates carried General V.I. Chuikov as candidate in Constituency No. 672, presumably the Soviet Zone of Germany. Thus it appears that, besides the 671 constituencies in the Soviet Union, at least six constituencies were established for occupation and liaison personnel outside the Soviet Union, with Constituency No. 677 presumably formed in Bulgaria (24).

f. A Soviet newspaper dispatch of 15 March 1950 mentioned N.I. Gusev having been elected candidate for the Council of Nationalities (12 March 1950). He is believed to be Lt Gen N.I. Gusev who, in 1946, was CinC of the Kazan MD (later absorbed by the Volga MD) and was twice reported from Bucharest in August 1949. Lt Gen Gusev's being listed in connection with Chuikov (CinC of Occupation Forces Germany), Sviridov (CinC of Occupation Forces Austria) and others may indicate that he holds a high-level command position in Rumania.

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5. Soviet Union

a. Soviet newspapers evaluated during the period covered by the report yielded valuable data and allowed inferences on, the appointments of high-ranking military personalities who were nominated as candidates for the 12 March elections to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

Sixteen of the twenty-one commanders-in-chief of the Military Districts were newly identified or confirmed and the ministers of state security (MGB) in fifteen of the sixteen Union Republics were identified

b. Two reports summarizing military intelligence supplied by PWs on troops and supply installations in the Transcaucasus MD and the Northcaucasus MD were submitted between 10 February and 10 April 1950.

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(1) 294th Rifle Div in the Lvov area.

(2) 111th Gds How Arty Regt in the Kamenets-Podolsk Oblast, Carpathian MD.

The regiment had been subordinate to the Thirteenth Army during the war. The headquarters of this army is carried as one of those in command in the Carpathian MD, according to a report of 1946. The identification of the 111th Gds How Arty Regt can therefore be considered a vague confirmation of the Thirteenth Army in the Carpathian MD.

Annex : 1. Soviet Order of Battle Germany
as of Mid-March 1950 (list)

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